

VIDEO PROMOTES NATIVE PRENATAL HEALTH

The Native Physicians' Association in Canada (NPAC), with financial support from the Brewers Association of Canada, has produced a video that promotes prenatal health for native mothers and a supportive role for fathers, family members and the community. It has been released as part of the "Caring Together" program.

The video, which will be distributed to band offices, nursing stations and native friendship centres across the country, incorporates medicine, native spiritualism and traditional healing. Dr. Vincent Tookenay, the NPAC president, said the "Caring Together" program recognizes the support that cultural or traditional approaches and Western-trained physicians can offer.

AIDS CLAIMS MEDICAL PIONEER, HUMANITARIAN

A 450-bed hospital in a northern Ugandan town is the legacy left by Montreal-born surgeon Lucille Teasdale, 67, who died in August from complications related to AIDS. The humanitarian and missionary, who spent most of her medical career in Africa, probably contracted HIV while operating on a soldier during Uganda's civil war in the late 1970s.

A 1955 graduate of the University of Montreal, Dr. Teasdale was one of Canada's first female surgeons. She met her future husband, Dr. Peiro Corti, in Montreal and accompanied

him to observe missionary hospitals in Africa and India. In 1961 they began work in a 45-bed clinic in Gulu, Uganda, and over the years converted it into a large facility with surgical and pediatric wards and schools for nurses, laboratory technicians, health educators and physicians. Humanitarian work earned Dr. Teasdale the Order of Canada and Order of Quebec, and awards from Italy's most prestigious academic and cultural institution, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, and the International Medical Women's Association.

CMA MOURNS LOSS OF HEALTH-PROMOTION ADVOCATE

Dr. Martin Bass, a University of Western Ontario professor of family medicine who for many years was active in developing health care and promotion policies through the CMA, Health Canada and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), died July 30 in London, Ont. He was 54. Dr. Bass was Ontario's representative to the CMA Council on Health Care and Promotion from 1992 to 1995. During that time he chaired the council's Working Group on Prevention, which in 1995 prepared the CMA's policy on the physician's role in disease prevention and health promotion. He also chaired the Health Canada-sponsored "Tools for Prevention" workshop in March 1995 and had been involved in population-health work for the OMA. A 1968 graduate of the University of Toronto, Dr. Bass was on the medical

staff of Victoria Hospital and the courtesy staff at St. Joseph's Health Centre. He also served as director of the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine at Western.

COMPANY ORDERED TO CUT DRUG PRICE

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) has found a Canadian company, ICN Canada, guilty of excessive price increases for ribavirin, a drug used to treat lower respiratory tract infections in hospitalized children that are caused by respiratory syncytial virus.

In a ruling cited in its July *Bulletin*, the PMPRB also found that ICN Canada had been selling ribavirin "at an excessive price" since January 1994. Exercising its remedial power to the full extent permitted by the Patent Act, the PMPRB ordered the company to reduce the price from \$1540 to about \$200, which is less than the 1996 maximum nonexcessive price of \$400. It also ordered the company to pay the federal government \$1.2 million — the board estimate of total excess revenues earned by ICN Canada.

MCGILL MEDICAL JOURNAL CELEBRATES FIRST ISSUE

The premiere issue of the *McGill Journal of Medicine* — "an international forum for the advancement of medical science by students" — was published this spring, featuring medical